

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

At page 11, please delete the centered heading as follows:

Claims

At page 11, immediately before claim 1, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

We Claim:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) Method for ~~the manufacture of~~ manufacturing hollow bodies with a gas barrier coating, ~~in particular containers made of PET, with a coating based on agent having a~~ polyvinyl alcohol base, where ~~a~~ the hollow body of the surfaces to be treated is subjected to a preliminary treatment to increase the surface energy, coated and then dried, ~~characterized by comprising~~ a multi-step preliminary treatment, where the hollow body is electrostatically discharged after the increase in the surface energy.

2. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, where the surface energy is increased to a value above 60 mN/m, ~~preferably above 70 mN/m.~~

3. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the surface energy is increased by flaming.

4. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of Claims 1-3,~~ Claim 1, and an additional preliminary treatment with a fat dissolving agent, ~~in particular ethyl alcohol,~~ which preliminary treatment is carried out before the treatment to increase the surface energy.

5. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of Claims 1-6 [sic; 4],~~ Claim 1, wherein the coating is carried out by ~~swelling with~~ blowing the coating agent against the surface to be treated.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of Claims 1-5,~~ characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out with warm, dehumidified air at a temperature of less than approximately 60°C, preferably at 45°C, and with a water content of preferably less than approximately 3 g/m³.

7. (Currently amended) Device for the manufacture of hollow bodies (2) with a gas barrier coating, in particular containers made of PET, in particular with a polyvinyl alcohol-based coating, with comprising a device (8) to increase the surface energy of the surface to be coated, a coating device (10), and a dryer (14), characterized by and a multi-step preliminary treatment section (6) with having a device (9) for electrostatically discharging the surface (2c) to be treated, which device is arranged after the device (8) to increase the surface energy.

8. (Currently amended) Method Device according to Claim 7, characterized in that wherein the device (9) for electrostatically discharging is an air shower with ionized air.

9. (Currently amended) Method Device according to Claim 7 ~~or 8,~~ characterized in that wherein the preliminary treatment section (6) contains a device (7) to degrease the surface (2c) to be coated, which device is arranged before the device (8) to increase the surface energy.

10. (Currently amended) Method Device according to ~~one of Claims 7-9,~~ characterized by Claim 7, and a film formation section (13), ~~which is arranged~~ between the coating device (10) and the dryer (14).

11. (Currently amended) Method Device according to ~~one of Claims 7-10,~~ characterized in that Claim 10, wherein the dryer is a warm air dryer and contains a dehumidification device (15) for the dryer air.

12. (Currently amended) Method Device according to ~~one of Claims 7-11,~~ characterized in that Claim 7, and a second coating device (16) follows immediately after the dryer (14) for drying the gas barrier layer, for applying an additional layer which covers the gas barrier layer, and in that an additional dryer (17) for the second layer follows.

13. (New) Method according to Claim 2, where the surface is increased to a value above 760mN/m.

14. (New) Method according to Claim 4, wherein the fat dissolving agent comprises ethyl alcohol.

15. (New) Method according to Claim 6, wherein the air temperature is less than approximately 45°C.